

they approach these last hours of the 109th Congress. Pressured by the complexity of today's society and limited by constitution and human capability, they have regularly turned to You to help foster the American dream and enact laws and policies for the American people and our neighbors on Earth. You have not failed them in their compromises. You have counseled them in dealing with mistrust and reconciled differences in the search for the common good.

Called to lead Your freed people is not always easy. Popular understanding for decisions cannot be the guide, only world history can adequately measure and ultimately, You alone, Lord God, can offer judgment.

Lord, bless the accomplishments, nurture the seeds which have been planted, reward justice with peace, heal all blindness and paralysis, and supply compensation for all our deficiencies. Reward and bless J. DENNIS HASTERT for his public service as Speaker of this House. For not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to You, Lord God, be the glory, honor, power, and thanksgiving now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches on each side.

SUNSET ON THE BORDER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, as the sun sets on the 109th Congress today, the sun is also setting in the Southwest at a border unguarded from illegal entry, open for settlement and incursion. Our government has voiced empty words of border security and protecting our Nation from foreign invasion.

Much like the Empire of Rome in 364 A.D., when the Goths encroached into Roman lands, there were not enough border security agents to keep them

out. They were not required to assimilate into the Roman culture. The Romans did nothing. Blind to Goth occupation, Rome created its own downfall and disappearance as a Nation.

Inability to protect borders and keep intruders out has led to the extermination of civilizations throughout history. Our government has failed with empty, meaningless political promises to protect the American people from border invasions.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are tired of the hollow, hapless words. They are demanding secure borders to keep our Nation sovereign. It is the moral responsibility of this Nation to protect its citizens from invasion, to secure its borders from foreign invaders, before we become another Rome and pass smoldering into the ash heap of historical insignificance.

All the while the sun sets in the Southwest. And that's just the way it is.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN LANE EVANS

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of my dear friend LANE EVANS. LANE EVANS is a hero who has tirelessly fought to provide just for over 200,000 "comfort women" who were forced into sex slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. He has been a voice for those voiceless women who are still holding out hope that they will receive a formal apology from the Japanese Government for the indignities they have suffered.

I want to assure LANE that I will do my best to continue his work and legacy on this issue after his retirement this year. He has personally inspired me, and I look forward to seeking the justice the "comfort women" deserve, knowing that LANE EVANS blazed much of the trail.

Mr. Speaker, for his leadership, mentorship and companionship, for his work on behalf of those who would have otherwise been forgotten, and for his unparalleled work these past 24 years, I will not forget LANE.

LANE, Semper Fi.

LASALLE, MT. NOTRE DAME MAKE CHAMPIONSHIP RUNS, MERCY TAKES HOME RUNNER-UP

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the achievements of three exceptional high school teams from my district in Cincinnati, the volleyball teams from Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy High Schools, and the cross-country team from my alma mater, LaSalle High School.

On November 11, Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy battled for Ohio's Division I State volleyball championship. In the third and most important meeting of the season, Mt. Notre Dame emerged victorious. The victory marks Mt. Notre Dame's fifth State volleyball title. Mother of Mercy also gave a top-notch effort and finished an impressive second in the State.

The GCL also saw one of its own bring home a State championship when the LaSalle Lancers' cross-country team sprinted to their second consecutive State title.

It gives me great pride to acknowledge the achievement of these exceptional young men and women, and their coaches and parents and fans and teachers and administrators. It is important to point out that while these schools enjoy tremendous success in athletics, they also have a tradition of academic excellence, and they should be equally proud of that accomplishment.

Congratulations again to Mt. Notre Dame and Mother of Mercy, and my alma mater, LaSalle.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. The American people made clear on November 7 that they demand a new direction in Iraq: Out. Bring the troops home. Just 1 month later, they have their answer. President Bush will not bring the troops home.

The Iraq Study Group report does not recommend bringing the troops home and ending the occupation. Read the fine print of the report. Only Congress can bring the troops home and keep faith with the American people.

The money is there. Just 2 months ago, we appropriated \$70 billion for the war. That money should be used to start bringing the troops home now. If Congress gives the President another \$130 billion in the spring to keep the war going, we will then be directly responsible for the casualties.

Why won't we take responsibility for bringing the troops home? The money is there now to bring the troops home. The American people voted for a new Congress to bring the troops home. We cannot say we are against the war and vote to fund it. We cannot say we are for the troops and vote to keep them in Iraq when the money is there to bring them home now.

IN MEMORY OF DR. GEORGE MEETZE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. George Meetze of Columbia,